

QA-268

Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church  
Stevensville

1912

The Wesley ME Church was evidently built in 1912, and replaced or expanded upon an earlier building that was constructed in 1877, four years after the property was acquired. It is notable as one of the oldest established black congregations in the county, and architecturally the building is among the finest black churches in this region.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

QA- 268

MAGI#

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wesley M.E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Old Love Point and Benton Roads

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles Marsteller

Telephone #: 643-6763

STREET & NUMBER

Benton Road

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21666

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's Co. Courthouse

Liber #: LN 16

Folio #: 213

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Place

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

| CONDITION                          |  | CHECK ONE                          | CHECK ONE   |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD      | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR      | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED               |                                    | DATE <u>1877</u>                                  |

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**


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This Gothic Church rests on a brick foundation. It measures 46' long and 32' wide. There is a bell tower/entrance 10' wide and 8' deep on the Southwest front of the structure. The building faces West. The exterior walls are covered with bevel siding. There is a double Gothic sash on the front of the building right of the entrance. There are three (3) 12' tall Gothic windows on the North and South walls of the building (six in all). The cornerstone is placed in the Northwest front corner and reads "Wesley MP Church 1877-1912". I believe the tower and entrance may have been added in 1900 but I don't think the Church was rebuilt. The tower has three diamond shaped windows one on each of its side. The front window is higher than the side windows. The tower has four square sashes under the peaked cupola. The double 4-panel doors are oak. The gable roof is covered with tin but one corner is exposed showing the original shakes.

The interior has been badly vandalized. There is wainscoting 4' around the interior. The walls are plastered and painted (dark green). In the Northwest corner of the front interior wall, there is a square of the original unpainted wall (a cabinet must have once been attached to this corner and some stenciling is exposed). The floor has caved-in on the Southeast side of the building. The sanctuary is inset at the East

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

## 7 (DESCRIPTION) Con't

end of the building. It is shallow (only 5 1/2 in depth and 14' wide. The rail has been destroyed.

There is a Sunday School 15' from the South wall of the building. This building is of board and batten construction and has floor boards. The building has recently been sold along with the Parsonage (Circa 1873) to a private party.

| PERIOD  |   | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS               | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION    | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE               | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of the oldest black churches in Queen Anne's County. Blacks have worshipped on this site for over 105 years that can be documented. Wesley M.E. Church was founded by a group of ex-slaves with the help of white Methodists. The church split in the 1920's and again in the 1940's ; these congregations are now housed in Stevensville and in Northern Queen Anne's County near Batt's Neck.

The Peninsula Conference of the Methodist Church has sold all of the property surrounding Wesley M.E. Church. The only reason the Church itself has not been sold is that a cemetery is located at the rear of the church.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Commission on Afro-American History &amp; Culture

DATE

12/12/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Kent County - 268  
Wesley M.E. Church  
Stevensville, MD 21666

1877

Wesley M.E. Church is abandoned. It stands vacant and neglected at the intersection of Love Point Rd. and Old Love Point Rd. a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from Stevensville. Wesley M.E. Church is a wonderful late Vitorian structure with double lancet windows in the front facade. The interior also has double lancet windows (three on each side). Unfortunately, the glass is missing from all of the windows in the building. The interior is plaster over lath. The interior had been painted a dark green, a cabinet had been pulled from the wall to expose some stenciling on the white plaster that dated from an earlier era. The property that the church is situated upon and the graveyard behind it is owned by the Penninsula Conference of the United Methodist Church. The parsonage and the old board and batten Sunday School that are adjacent to the church on the south, have been sold to private holders.

Wesley M.E. Church is the victim of a declining black population, and a three-way split in the congregation. This congregation, founded in 1876 was once the largest black Methodist congregation in this area. A split occured in this congregation in the 1930's and again after World War II. This internal dissension, coupled with the decline of black farmers and farm workers caused the dissolution of the congregation.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Northeast corner of Old Love Point Road and Benton Road

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Wesley ME Church

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stevensville

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21666

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: JW #4

Folio #: 189

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



# 7 DESCRIPTION

QA-268

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the northeast corner of the Old Love Point Road and Benton Road, about one mile north of Stevensville, the Wesley ME Church stands out rather starkly against a backdrop of corn fields and scattered woods. The modest frame structure faces south across Benton Road, with a square frame bell tower with pyramidal roof on the southeast corner of the gable facade. Access to the building is made through a double door on the south facade of the bell tower. Tall Gothic arched windows range along each side of the church. A small shed-roof nave projects from <sup>the</sup> center of the north gable.

The exterior is plain in appearance. Resting on a continuous brick foundation, the framing is of standard stud construction, covered with German siding. The roof is covered with tin, but a shingle roof can be seen beneath the tin. The eaves are not boxed, the rafters project beyond the eave with a plain fascia board nailed to the rafter ends. An undecorated barge board projects beyond the gable eaves. The corners of the building are treated with wide corner boards with a one-inch

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

round bead at the corners. The windows are all of the Gothic variety, but the sash has been removed. A photograph published in the Stevensville Bay Times several years ago indicates the windows were wooden double hung sash rather than leaded stain glass.

A cornerstone in the southwest corner of the brick foundation is inscribed

Wesley M. E. Church

1877 - 1912

The interior consists of a single large room with high ceilings approached through a vestibule in the base of the bell tower. A raised altar platform projects forward from the nave, a slightly lower platform to the right of the altar presumably provided for a lay reader and/or the organ.

Ceiling and walls are plastered throughout, with narrow beaded wainscot paneling below a chairrail. Stove chimneys rise along the side walls near the rear of the church.

To the east of the church is a small frame building (16' x 32'), apparently used as a parish hall. The

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

stud construction is similar to the church, with oversailing, unboxed rafters, and board and batten siding. There is a single four panel door on the south facade, the windows are of six-over-six sash.

There is a small cemetery about 10 yards to the north of the church.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-268

| PERIOD                                    | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| PREHISTORIC                               | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

2/23/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

124 S. Commerce St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

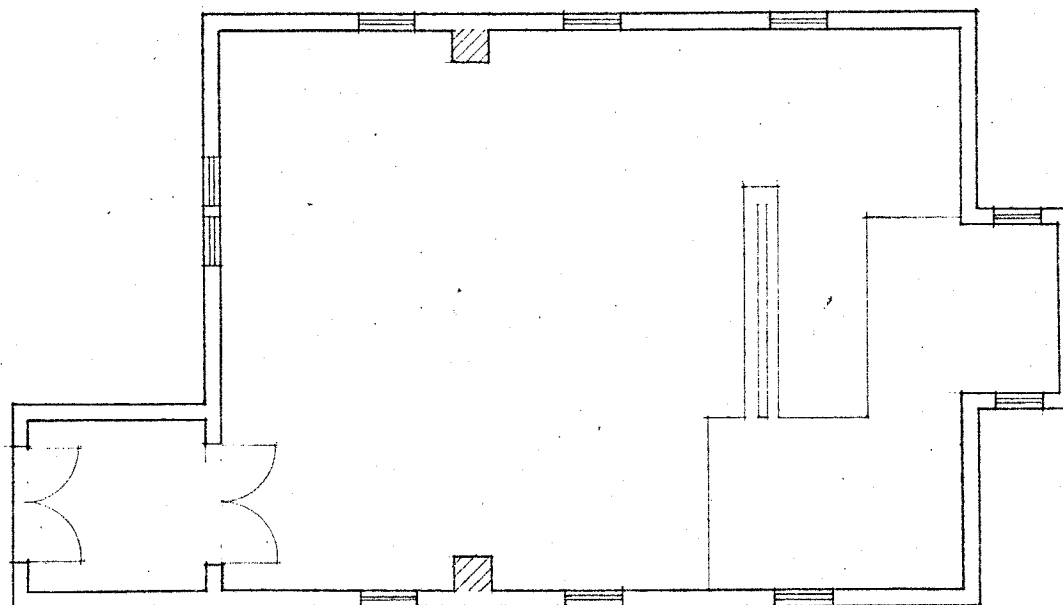
STATE

Maryland 21617

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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



0 2 4 6 8 10  
SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'-0"



ORLANDO RIDOUT V.

QA-268

WESLEY M.E. CHURCH  
STEVENSVILLE, MARYLAND

FEBRUARY 9, 1978

C H E S E

★ SANDY POINT Lighthouse

Sandy Pt

Love Pt

LOVE POINT LANDING

Love Point

WESLEY CHURCH  
QA-268

STEVENSVILLE

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

LANDING FIELD

Bay City

DEPT CHESAPEAKE  
BAY AFFAIRS  
MARINE POLICE  
ACADEMY

CAMP WRIGHT

Matapeake

Matapeake Estates

Sunny Isle of Kent

Chesapeake Estates

LANDING FIELD

Kentmoo

Queen Anne Colony

Normans

BATT'S NECK

18 COUNTY DUMP

ROSAL COE

10

13

10

13

13

13

13

13

13

13

13

KENT ISLAND

THOMPSON CREEK

WAREHOUSE CREEK

COX CREEK

COX CREEK

COX CREEK

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COX CREEK

COX CREEK

COX CREEK

COX CREEK

Chester

Harbor View

Thompson Creek

Warehouse Creek

Cox Creek

Cox Creek

Cox Creek

Cox Creek

Cox Creek

Cox Creek

Cox Creek

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Cox Creek

Cox Creek

Cox Creek

CRAB ALLEY

BAY

Johnson Island

Little Island

Turkey Pt

Long Marsh I

Hodkin Island

E A S T E R N

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

(LOVE POINT) LOVE POINT 2.2 MI.

17'30"

CHESTER

WESLEY  
MECHURCH

Stevensville

BALTIMORE

Chester

EASTERN

Macum Creek

552

KENT ISLAND





Wesley Church  
Stevensville, Queen Anne's

QA-268

Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church  
Stevensville, Queen Anne's County, MD  
Michael Hosford

QA-268

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Interior detail  
2/79